

**WEST LAFAYETTE TRAFFIC COMMISSION**  
**WEST LAFAYETTE CITY BUILDING**  
**WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA**

**TIME:** 5:00 pm, Tuesday, January 18, 2011

**PLACE:** Lower Level Conference Room

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Dave Buck	Vicki Burch	Eric Chin
	David Christian	Eddie VanBogaert	Jim Knapp
	Chris Leroux	Kathleen Mills	Karen O'Farrell
	Larry Preo	Debbie Siciliano	Kumares Sinha

<b>VISITORS:</b>	Beth Cook	Michelle Debord	Ann Hunt
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Chairman Sinha brought the meeting to order and determined there was a quorum. Ms. Mills made a motion to approve the November minutes and Ms. Burch seconded. The November minutes were approved as written. Mr. Preo made a motion to nominate Kumares Sinha as chairman. Ms. Burch seconded and Dr. Sinha was unanimously selected to serve as chairman.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Citizen Concerns: Nighthawk Drive and US-52**

Ann Hunt, West Lafayette City Council President, was present to express the concern of a constituent who frequently shops at Aldi's and has trouble crossing US-52 when exiting. The concern is regarding the Nighthawk Drive and US-52 intersection. The frontage road stop sign can get congested causing delays for those waiting to cross US-52. There is only enough space for one car to be stopped at the traffic signal in the lane to cross US-52 while the other vehicles have to wait at the stop sign along the frontage road. Sometimes the cars backed up at the stop sign will have to wait through two or three signal cycles before they are allow to cross the street.

Ms. Hunt would like to know if there is anything the City can do. Mr. Buck informed Ms. Hunt that there is another exit to US-52 directly across from the Aldi parking lot which would require you to turn right onto US-52, and then turn left at Nighthawk and avoid crossing US-52 at Nighthawk and the long delays. To do anything within the US-52 right of way would require INDOT approval.

Ms. Mills asked about modifying the lights. Mr. Buck responded that this would also require INDOT approval and he is confident they would review it and find it a low accident and low travel area which would make it low priority for them. The only option would be to do a split phase light so one direction would be able to go at a time which would allow more crossing action. Mr. Buck stated the US-52 corridor study will be looking at these types of concerns. He will discuss the location with INDOT to see if any short-term, simple solutions or improvements can be made.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Mid-Block Pedestrian Crossings**

The City has received HSIP funding in the amount of \$150,000 which will be used to improve pedestrian safety at two locations. The locations are the "Farmer's Market" crossing (Lagrange and Salisbury) and the John T. Myers Pedestrian Bridge at Tapawingo Dr. We will be looking at replacing and/or adding lights and signage.

Mr. VanBogaert commented that it would be nice if the signage is consistent with the mid-block crossings closer to campus. Mr. Buck agreed.

### **Citizen Concerns: Salisbury-Yellow Curb Issue**

At the request of Professor van Gelder during the November meeting, Mr. Buck reported to the commission his findings on curb markings. Mr. Buck brought a handout for the commission on the Indiana Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), Section 3B.21 on curb markings. It does not require curbs to be painted yellow. He believes we should keep current curb painting policies the same unless law enforcement sees a problem with people parking along a street.

At this time, Capt. Leroux said he has not had any complaints about parking on Salisbury Street or from drivers hitting the islands. Capt. Leroux stated that there is nothing that says you cannot park along the Salisbury, but common sense tells you not to park there. If issues arise where people start parking then they will consider options in the future. The Commission agreed that painting yellow curb would require maintenance that would be unnecessary at this time if there are no issues.

### **Citizen Concerns: Ravinia Sidewalk Issues**

Ms. Siciliano requested an update on the sidewalk issue on Ravinia. Mr. Buck responded that this is still an active project. He is not sure when this will go farther. He needs to get information and right of way drawings before he can go to the property owners. Ms. Siciliano is concerned about the safety of the children walking along Ravinia around the corner to Forrest Hill as they walk from their bus stop, which is also about the same time the high school students are being dismissed. She is concerned for the pedestrians safety.

Ms. Hunt commented that Captain Leroux and the WLPD did an excellent job with extra patrols in the Happy Hollow area and that really seemed to help. Capt. Leroux asked if we can talk to the busses about changing drop sites. Ms. Siciliano said that there are other options, but the kids want to get off as quickly as possible and if they are able to get off a stop earlier and walk they will do so.

Mr. Buck said he has a meeting scheduled to discuss HSIP (Highway Safety Improvement Funds) and if there is an opportunity for grant funds for this project he will submit an application.

### **Third Street Tunnel Top Replacement**

Mr. Knapp updated the commission on Phase 2 of the Third Street Tunnel Top Replacement project. Kettlehut was the successful bidder. The notice of award will follow shortly. Contractor activity could start late February to mid-March depending on the weather. The project will be completed by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Buck asked if commencement will be affected. Mr. Knapp confirmed that construction will be taking place during commencement at Purdue but the sidewalks will not be affected.

### **2010 Traffic Division Report**

Capt. Leroux reported that the 2010 Traffic Division Report can be found on the website at [www.westlafayettepd.us](http://www.westlafayettepd.us). The report shows the crash comparison between 2009 and 2010. Dr. Sinha asked if Capt. Leroux could provide data going back several years. Capt. Leroux said that would not be a problem and he would be able to bring a longer history to the next meeting. Dr. Sinha asked if Purdue was included in this report. Capt. Leroux said Purdue is not included, they have their own data. Capt. Chin who was also present said he will need to pull the data to see what Purdue's numbers are. He will bring them to the next meeting.

**NEXT MEETING:** 5:00 pm, Tuesday, **March 8, 2011**, Lower Level Conference Room.

**Note:** The March meeting has been moved due to spring break conflicts.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Buck, P.E.  
City Engineer

DMB/md